

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4934
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
CONDITION OF HANDICRAFTSMEN
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the miserable condition of handicraftsmen in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government to improve their condition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the government provide loans at lower rates of interest to encourage the handicrafts reflecting Indian culture; and
- (e) if so, the number of persons benefited therefrom during last three years, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) to (c): No instance has been brought to the notice of the Government to suggest that the condition of handicraftsmen in the country is miserable.

However for socioeconomic development of the handicraftpersons a number of schemes are being implemented e.g. AHVY, training & extension, design and technical upgradation; marketing support and services; group/health insurance; worksheds; pension to mastercraftpersons under indigent circumstances; conferring of National Award to outstanding craftpersons/weavers. The recently launched `Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana` (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the sector.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.